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(57)【要約】 (修正有)

(57)[SUMMARY] (Amended)

#### 【目的】

近紫外から赤色領域まで幅広い 領域に感度を有し、また信頼性 に優れた受光素子を提供する近 紫外から赤色領域まで幅広い領 域に感度を有し、また信頼性に 優れた受光素子を提供する。

# 【構成】

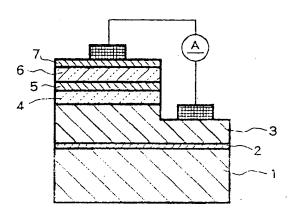
n型窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体層4とp型窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体層6との間に、受光層5としてlnxGa<sub>1x</sub>N層(0 < X < 1) が挟まれたダブルへテロ構造を有する。

# [OBJECT]

To provide a light receiving element excellent in reliability which has sensitivity in the wide area from near ultraviolet area to red area.

#### [SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION]

It has a double heterostructure, where an InXGa1-XN layer (0< X<1) is pinched as a light-receiving layer 5 between a n-type gallium nitride group compound semiconductor layer 4 and a p-type gallium nitride group compound semiconductor layer 6.



## 【特許請求の範囲】

#### [CLAIMS]

#### 【請求項1】

n型窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体層とp型窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体層との間に、受光層としてInxGa<sub>1-x</sub>N層(0 < X < 1)が挟まれたダブルヘテロ構造を有することを特徴とする窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体受光素子。

#### 【請求項2】

前記n型室化ガリウム系化合物 半導体層がG a  $_{1,Y}A$   $1_{Y}N$  (0  $\leq$   $Y \leq 1$ ) であり、前記 p 型窒化 ガリウム系化合物半導体層がG a  $_{1,Z}A$   $1_{Z}N$  (0  $\leq$   $Z \leq$  1) であ ることを特徴とする請求項1に 記載の窒化ガリウム系化合物半 導体受光素子。

#### 【請求項3】

前記窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体受光素子はサファイアを基板 として有していることを特徴と

### [CLAIM 1]

gallium nitride group compound semiconductor light receiving element. characterized by having heterostructure where an InXGa1-XN layer (0< X<1) is pinched as a light-receiving layer between a n-type gallium nitride group compound semiconductor layer and a p-type gallium nitride group compound semiconductor layer.

#### [CLAIM 2]

gallium nitride group compound semiconductor light receiving element according to Claim 1, wherein said n-type gallium nitride group compound semiconductor layer is a Ga1-YAIYN (0=<Y=<1), and said ptype gallium nitride group compound semiconductor layer is а Ga1-ZAIZN (0=< Z=< 1).

#### [CLAIM 3]

A gallium nitride group compound semiconductor light receiving element according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein said gallium nitride group compound semiconductor 記載の窒化ガリウム系化合物半 導体受光素子。

する請求項1または請求項2に light receiving element has a sapphire as a substrate.

【発明の詳細な説明】

[DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION]

[0001]

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】

本発明は太陽電池、フォトダイ オード等に使用される半導体受 光素子に関し、特に窒化ガリウ ム系化合物半導体 (In<sub>a</sub>Al<sub>b</sub>  $G \circ _{1\text{-a-b}} N$ ,  $0 \leq a \leq 1$ ,  $0 \leq b$ ≦1、a+b≦1) よりなり36 5 n m ~ 6 3 5 n m の特定波長 に感度を有する受光素子に関す る.

[0002]

【従来の技術】

太陽電池、フォトダイオード等 の受光素子には一般に半導体材 料が使用されている。例えば太 陽電池にはGaP、CdS/C u<sub>2</sub>S、Si、アモルファスシリ コン等の材料が知られている。 これら半導体材料はいずれも5 00 n.m以上の波長に感度を有 する材料であり、500nmよ り短い波長に感度を有する実用 的な材料は余り知られていな い。500nmより短い波長に 感度を有する材料として、例え ばSiCが知られているが、S iCは間接遷移型であるために 変換効率が悪く、400nm以 下の紫外用フォトダイオードに

[INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION]

This invention relates to the semiconductor light receiving element used for a solar battery, a photodiode, etc.

Especially, it is related with the light receiving element which consists of a gallium nitride group compound semiconductor (InaAibGa1-abN, 0=<a=<1, 0=<b=<1, a+b=<1), and has a sensitivity in specific wavelength of 365 nm -635 nm.

[0002]

[PRIOR ART]

The semiconductor material is generally used for light receiving elements, such as a solar battery and a photodiode.

For example, material, such as GaP, CdS/Cu2S, Si, and an amorphous silicon, is known by the solar battery.

Each of these semiconductor materials is material which has a sensitivity in wavelength of 500 nm or more...

A practical material which has a sensitivity on a wavelength shorter than 500 nm is seldom

As the material which has a sensitivity on a wavelength shorter than 500 nm, for example, SiC is known.

However, since SiC is an indirect transition type, the conversion efficiency is bad and it is the present condition that only the photodiode for ultraviolet 400 nm or less utilises.



しか実用化されていないのが現 状である。

#### [0003]

このように従来の受光素子の材料には間接遷移型のものが多く、間接遷移型では変換効率の大幅な向上を望むのは難しい。 また従来の材料は熱、雰囲気を望むのは難し気に対し劣化しやすいたの場所を開する半導体材料としている。 等の外部条件の変化に対しられている。

#### [0004]

#### [0005]

#### [0003]

Thus the material of the conventional light receiving element has many things of an indirect transition type. It is hard to desire the large improvement in the conversion efficiency in an indirect transition type.

Moreover since it is easy to deteriorate to heat, atmosphere, etc., the conventional material has an anxiety as a semiconductor material used for a space exploration.

It is required for the semiconductor material which seldom deteriorates to a change of external conditions, such as atmosphere.

#### [0004]

By the way, we published the blue light emitting diode with a wavelength of 450 nm which has the luminous intensity of 1 cds or more for the first time in the world, late in November of the last year.

The blue light emitting diode consists of a gallium nitride group compound semiconductor (lnaAlbGa1-a-bN, 0=<a=<1, 0=<b=<1, a+b=<1).

It uses as the double heterostructure which used InGaN for the luminescent layer.

## [0005]

Gallium nitride group compound semiconductor has been known as a material which has a wide range band gap energy to 6.0 eV (AIN) - 1.95eV (InN).

However, since there was no suitable substrate which carries out a lattice matching to a gallium nitride group compound semiconductor, it was considered that it was hard material for utilisation.

However, since we succeeded in utilisation for the first time using the sapphire substrate which does not carry out a lattice matching, a gallium nitride group compound semiconductor has come to be suddenly exposed to attention.

に窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体 が注目を浴びるようになってき た。

[0006]

[0006]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

室化が12000では か1200で以上と が1200ででは が1200でで が1200でで が1200で 

[0007]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明の受光素子は窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体よりなる受りを表子である。 素子化合物半導体層とp型窓化ガリウム系化合物半導体層とp型窓とが変とのが出るが出る。 が層に、のくX<1)が存まれたがである。 がブルとする。

[0008]

InxGa<sub>1-x</sub>N層はn型もしく はp型または半絶縁性のi型い [PROBLEM ADDRESSED]

A gallium nitride group compound semiconductor has a melting point very as high as 1200 degree C or more. Moreover it is a stable material which has the hardness near a diamond.

Therefore by materializing a light receiving element using this material, a reliable light receiving element can be provided also to a change of an external condition.

Therefore this invention is made in view of such a situation.

The place made into the objective is to provide the light receiving element which has a sensitivity to an area wide from a near ultraviolet to a red colour area and which was excellent in reliability again.

[0007]

[SOLUTION OF THE INVENTION]

The light receiving element of this invention is a light receiving element which consists of a gallium nitride group compound semiconductor.

It has the double heterostructure by which the InXGa1-XN layer (0< X<1) was pinched as a light-receiving layer between n-type gallium nitride group compound semiconductor layer and the p-type gallium nitride group compound semiconductor layer.

It is characterized by the above-mentioned.

[8000]

Any of a n-type, p-type, or i type of half-insulation are sufficient as an InXGa1-XN layer. In order to make a n-type, the dope of the donor



ずれでもよく、 S n

# [0009]

InxGa₁xN層を挟むn型窒 化ガリウム系化合物半導体層は インジウムを含まないGa+xA 1xN (0≦X≦1) であり、同 じくp型窒化ガリウム系化合物 半導体層もGa<sub>1-Z</sub>Al<sub>Z</sub>N(O≦ Z≦1) であることが好ましい。 なぜなら、一般に窒化ガリウム 系化合物半導体はMOVPE、 MBE等の気相成長法で成長さ れる。現在気相成長法で窒化ガ リウム系化合物半導体を成長さ せる際、InGaN半導体は二 元混晶、あるいは三元混晶のG aAIN層の上に積層すること により結晶性、半導体性能に優 れた高品質な膜が成長可能とな る傾向にある。従って受光素子 として実用的なInGaNを得 るために、クラッド層はGaN、 GaAIN、AINのいずれか であることが好ましいからであ る。また、クラッド層となるn 型GanyAlyN、p型Ganz AlzNはInxGa1-xN層をn 型あるいはp型にする方法と同 様にして得ることができる。

impurities, such as Si, Ge, Sn, and Sb, can be carried out, and it can make a n-type.

In order to make p-type, after dopeing acceptor impurities, such as Zn, Mg, Ca, Sr, and Be, it can set as p-type by carrying out an annealing above 400 degree C.

Moreover, an i type InXGa1-XN layer is made by carrying out the suitable amount dope of acceptor impurities and the donor impurities.

# [0009]

The n-type gallium nitride group compound semiconductor layer which pinches an InXGa1-XN layer is Ga1-XAIXN (0=<X=<1) which does not contain an indium.

It is preferable that a p-type gallium nitride group compound semiconductor layer is also Ga1-ZAIZN (0=<Z=<1) similarly.

Because, a gallium nitride group compound semiconductor grows by the vapor growth of MOVPE and MBE etc. generally.

In case a gallium nitride group compound semiconductor is currently grown up by the vapor growth, InGaN semiconductor is in the tendency that the quality film excellent in crystallinity and semiconductor performance can grow, by laminating on GaAlN layer of a binary mixed crystal or a ternary mixed crystal.

Therefore in order to obtain InGaN practical as a light receiving element, a clad layer is because it is preferable that they are GaN, GaAIN, or AIN.

Moreover, n-type Ga1-YAIYN used as a clad layer and p-type Ga1-ZAIZN can obtain an InXGa1-XN layer like the method made into a n-type or p-type.



[0010]

[0010]

#### 【作用】

## [0011]

また図2に本願の他の実施例に 係る受光素子の構造を表す模式 断面図を示す。この受光素子は 図1の受光素子のnクラッド層 4を除き、nコンタクト層3(この場合はクラッド層)とpク ッド層6とで受光層5を挟んだ 構造としている。

#### [0012]

n型GaN層と、n型Ga0.9 Al0.1N層とはSiをドープしてn型としており、p型Ga 0.9Al0.1N層とp型GaN層 とはMgをドープした後、70 0℃でアニーリングしてp型と している。

#### [0013]

まずサファイア基板1は周知のように非常に熱に対して安定な材料であり、また十分な硬度を

#### [EFFECT]

The model sectional drawing showing the structure of the light receiving element based on one Example of this application is shown in Figure 1.

This light receiving element, On the sapphire substrate 1 The buffer layer 2 which consists of GaN, n contact layer 3 which consists of a n-type GaN, n clad layer 4 which consists of n-type Ga0.9Al0.1N. the tight-receiving layer 5 which consists of In0.1Ga0.9N, p clad layer 6 which consists of p-type Ga0.9Al0.1N, p contact layer 7 which consists of p-type GaN It is setting as the structure which laminated above in order.

#### [0011]

Moreover the model sectional drawing showing the structure of the light receiving element based on the other Example of this application is shown in Figure 2.

This light receiving element removes n clad layer 4 of the light receiving element of Figure 1. it sets as the structure which pinched the light-receiving layer 5 in n contact layer 3 (it is a clad layer in this case), and p clad layer 6.

#### [0012]

N-type GaN layer and n-type Ga0.9Al0.1N layer carry out the dope of the Si, and is being taken as the n-type.

After p-type Ga0.9Al0.1N layer and a p-type GaN layer dope Mg, the annealing of it is carried out at 700 degree C, and they are being taken as p-type.

#### [0013]

As is well-known, the sapphire substrate 1 is very a stable material to heat first.

Moreover as a substrate which grows up the gallium nitride group compound semiconductor



有しており受光素子に使用する 窒化ガリウム系化合物半導体を 成長させる基板としては最適で ある。またサファイア基板1の 上に成長するバッファ層2はそ のバッファ層2の上に成長する nコンタクト層3と同一組成に することにより、カコンタクト 闇3の結晶性を良くすることが できる。例えばMOVPE独で はり00℃以下の低温でバッフ ァ屬2を成長させ、900℃よ り高温でnコンタクト層3を成 畏する。MOVPE法によると 最も結晶性に優れたnコンタク ト層はGaNである傾向があ り、バッファ層はGaNどする ことが好ましい。

#### [0014]

次に先にも述べたように、結晶性の良い1n0.1G a 0.9N層を得て受光層 5 とするために、受光層 5 を挟むnクラッド層 4 およびpクラッド層 6 を二元混晶、あるいは三元混晶のG a A 1 N とする方が好ましい。

#### [00.15]

受光層であるIn0.1G a 0.9N m l n 0.1G a 0.9N m l n 0.

which it has sufficient hardness and is used for a light receiving element, it is the most suitable.

Moreover by making the same composition as n contact layer 3 which grows on the buffer layer 2, the buffer layer 2 which grows on the sapphire substrate 1 can improve crystallinity of n contact layer 3.

For example, the buffer layer 2 is grown up at low temperature 900 degree C or less at MOVPE method.

N contact layer 3 is grown at high temperature from 900 degree C.

According to MOVPE method, n contact layer which was excellent the most crystalline tends to be GaN.

As for a buffer layer, being performed as GaN is preferable.

#### [0014]

Next it is more preferable to set n clad layer 4 and p clad layer 6 which pinch the light-receiving layer 5 to GaAlN of a binary mixed crystal or a ternary mixed crystal, in order to obtain crystalline good In0.1Ga0.9N layer and to use as the light-receiving layer 5, as stated also in advance.

#### [0015]

In0.1Ga0.9N layer 5 which is a light-receiving layer becomes a n-type in the state of a non dope, and shows 1017/cm3-1019/cm3 by the electronic carrier concentration.

The dope of the donor impurities is carried out to this as mentioned above, and it is good also as a preferable n-type.

It anneals, after dopeing acceptor impurities, and it is good also as p-type.

In order to use as PIN junction type photodiode preferably or PIN junction type solar battery, the dope of the group 2 elements, such as Zn, Cd, Mg, etc. which are acceptor impurities, is carried out to In0.1Ga0.9N layer 5 of a non dope, or the dope of the impurities of both

# DERWENT THOMSON SCIENTIFIC

donor and acceptor is carried out, and it sets as i type of half-insulation.

By carrying out like this, the area of a depletion layer spreads in the bottom of a reverse bias, or the state without a reverse bias in PIN structure. In several times, a sensitivity becomes good compared with a pn junction.

## [0016]

# [0016]

Furthermore by setting the composition to GaN of a binary mixed crystal, p contact layer 7 which is uppermost layer is in the tendency which an electrode and an ohmic contact become easy to obtain.

The code is not attached in particular to the electrode formed on a contact layer 3 and p contact layer 7.

However, it is the alloy which contains Ti or Ti in n contact layer 3.

Those who preferably used Ti-Al and used the alloy which contains Ni and Au in p contact layer 7 tend to obtain an ohmic contact.

#### [0017]

このように本発明の受光素子は 安定な窒化ガリウム系化合物半 導体を使用し、結晶性の良い I n G a Nを受光層としたダブル ヘテロ構造としているため、信 頼性に優れている。

[0017]

Thus the light receiving element of this invention uses a stable gallium nitride group compound semiconductor, and since it uses as the double heterostructure which made crystalline good InGaN the light-receiving layer, it is excellent in reliability.

[0018]

[0018]

【実施例】

[Example]



#### 【実施例1】

サファイア基板上にMOVPE 法により約500℃~600℃ でGaNより成るバッファ層を 500オングストロームの膜厚 で成長させ、次にGaNバッフ ァ層の上に、1000℃でSi ドープn型GaNクラッド層を 4 umの膜厚で成長させる。次 にn型GaNクラッド層の上 に、800℃でSiドープn型 In 0.05G a 0.95N層を0. 1 um成長させ、さらにn型In 0.05G a 0.95N層の上に、10 00℃でMgドープi型GaN 層を0.4μm成長させる。成 長後、窒化ガリウム系化合物半 導体を積層した基板をアニーリ ング装置に移送し、700℃で アニーリングすることにより、 Mgドープi型GaN層を低抵 抗なp型GaNとする。

#### [0019]

#### [0020]

以上のようにして得た1mm角の受光素子のp型GaN層の上からキセノンランプ(500W)の白色光を分光して照射し、受光素子の相対感度を測定した。一方比較のため、Siフォトダ

### [Example 1]

The buffer layer which consists of GaN at 500 degree C - about 600 degree C by MOVPE method on a sapphire substrate is grown up by the 500A film thickness.

Next on GaN buffer layer, a Si dope n-type GaN clad layer is grown up by the 4-micrometre film thickness at 1000 degree C.

Next on a n-type GaN clad layer, 0.1-micrometre Si dope n-type In0.05Ga0.95N layer is grown up at 800 degree C.

Furthermore 0.4 micrometres of Mg dope i type GaN layers are grown up into a n-type In0.05Ga0.95N layer top at 1000 degree C. The substrate which laminated the gallium nitride group compound semiconductor is transferred to an annealing apparatus after the growth.

By carrying out an annealing at 700 degree C, a Mg dope i type-GaN layer is made into low-resistant p-type GaN.

#### [0019]

Then, a mask is formed on the surface of a p-type GaN layer.

A part of a p-type GaN layer and n-type In0.05Ga0.95N layer is etched, and a n-type GaN layer is exposed.

The positive electrode which consists of the alloy of Na Au on a p-type GaN layer, and the negative electrode which consists of Ti-Al on a n-type GaN layer are formed, and between electrodes is connected to the DC ampere meter.

#### [0020]

It is above, and it makes, and from on the ptype GaN layer of the light receiving element of obtained 1 mm angle, spectrum of white light of a xenon lamp (500W) is carried out, and it is irradiated.

The relative response of a light receiving element was measured.

イオードと、ダブルヘテロ構造のGaAlAsよりなる太陽電池の分光感度も同様に測定力に、図3は照射波長と相対分元。図3は照射波長と相対であり、本発明の受光素子をa、GaAlAs 機電池をcとして表している。

## [002]

この図を見てもわかるように、 bはその感度のピークが960 ・nm付近にあり、cは845n m付近にあるので短波長領域の 受光感度が悪い。一方本発明の 受光素子は380nm付近に強 い受光ピークを示す。しかもこ の受光ピークの波長はInGa NのInの組成を変化させるこ とにより、365nm~635 nm迄自由に変更可能である。 なおこの本発明の受光素子の3 80nmの実際の感度は、同一 面積のSiフォトダイオードの 380 nmでの感度の100倍 以上であり、また太陽電池とし ての特性はオープンの状態で開 放電圧3Vであり、ショート状 態でのショート電流100μΑ であった。

#### [0022]

なお実施例ではキセノンランプを p型G a N層側から照射したが、サファイア基板は紫外、青色光に対して透明で光を良く透過することができるので、基板側からでも照射できるという利点を有する。

[0023]

On the other hand, the spectral sensitivity of the solar battery which makes Si photodiode from GaAlAs of a double heterostructure was similarly measured for the comparison.

Figure 3 is a graph which shows the relationship of an irradiation wavelength and a relative spectral sensitivity.

The light receiving element of this invention is shown as an a. Si photodiode is shown as b. GaAlAs solar battery is shown as c.

#### [0021]

B has 960 nm of the peaks of the sensitivity in the vicinity so that it may find, even when it sees this figure.

Since there is 845 nm of c in the vicinity, its light-receiving sensitivity of a short wave length area is bad.

On the other hand, the light receiving element of this invention shows a light-receiving peak strong near 380 nm.

And by changing the composition of In of InGaN, the wavelength of this light-receiving peak is freely alterable to 365 nm - 635 nm.

In addition the actual sensitivity of 380 nm of the light receiving element of this this invention is 100 increment or more with a sensitivity of Si photodiode of the same area in 380 nm.

Moreover the characteristics as a solar battery are opening voltage 3V in the open state.

It was short electric current 100 microns A in a short state.

#### [0022]

In addition in the Example, the xenon lamp was irradiated from the p-type GaN layer side.

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However, since a sapphire substrate can be transparent and can permeate a light well to a ultraviolet and a blue glow, it has the advantage that it can irradiate even from a substrate side.

[0023]

#### 【発明の効果】

以上説明したように、本発明の 受光票子は安定な窒化ガリウム 系化合物半導体を用いているた めに受光素子の信頼性が優れて おり、さらにJnGaNを受光 層としたダブルヘテロ構造であ るため広い波長域にわたって自 油に感度を変えることが可能で ある。また、サファイア基板を 用いることにより、用途に応じ て基板側、窒化ガリウム系化合 物半導体層側いずれを受光側と することもできる。このように 従来では、短波長領域に感度を 有する適当な受光素子がなかっ たが、本発明の受光素子を用い ることにより初めて実現可能と なり、その産業上の利用価値は 大きい。

#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

#### 【図1】

本発明の一実施例の受光素子の構造を示す模式断面図。

#### 【図2】

本発明の他の実施例の受光素子の構造を示す模式断面図。

#### 【図3】

受光素子に照射する波長と相対 分光感度の関係を示すグラフ 図。

#### 【符号の説明】

1・・・・サファイア基板

#### [EFFECT OF THE INVENTION]

As explained above, since the stable gallium nitride group compound semiconductor is used, the light receiving element of this invention is excellent in the reliability of a light receiving element.

Furthermore since it is the double heterostructure which made InGaN the lightreceiving layer, it is possible to change a sensitivity freely over a large wavelength range.

Moreover, a substrate side or a gallium nitride group compound semiconductor layer side can also be made into a light-receiving side depending on a usage by using a sapphire substrate.

Thus there was no suitable light receiving element which has a sensitivity to a short wave length area conventionally.

However, implementation becomes possible for the first time by using the light receiving element of this invention.

The use value on the industry is large.

#### [BRIEF EXPLANATION OF DRAWINGS]

#### [FIGURE 1]

Model sectional drawing showing the structure of the light receiving element of one Example of this invention.

#### [FIGURE 2]

Model sectional drawing showing the structure of the light receiving element of the other Example of this invention.

#### [FIGURE 3]

The graph showing the relationship of the wavelength which irradiates to a light receiving element, and a relative spectral sensitivity.

## [EXPLANATION OF DRAWING]

1\*\*\*\* sapphire substrate 2\*\*\*\* buffer layer

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2・・・・バッファ層

3 · · · · n コンタクト層

4 · · · · n クラッド層

5・・・・受光層

6 · · · · p クラッド層

7····pコンタクト層

5\*\*\*\* light reception layer 6\*\*\*\*p clad layer

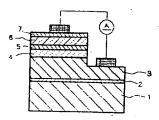
7\*\*\*\*p contact layer

3\*\*\*\*n contact layer

4\*\*\*\*n clad layer

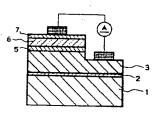
【図1】

[FIGURE 1]



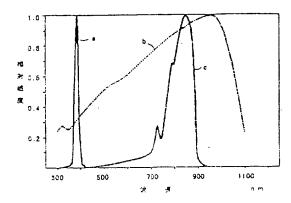
【図2】

[FIGURE 2]



【図3】

[FIGURE 3]





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